



AUDITIONS

Who: YOU!

What: IN PERSON Auditions Announcement and Roles Breakdown for **"Romeo and Juliet"**

When: **Monday, DECEMBER 2, 2024 3-7pm**

Where: NELSON FINE ARTS CENTER, RM 131, Arizona State University, Room 131
51 E 10th St, Tempe, AZ 85281

Directors: Deshik Vansadia and Grant Mudge, Casting Manager: Maren Maclean

Rehearsals: JAN 2 - FEB 7, 2025 **Performances:** FEB 8-23, 2025, Mesa Arts Center

Pay: \$150/wk (Some unpaid internships are available.) Housing: No

Setting: Verona becomes Gujarat, India, at the time of partition (late 1940's, early 50's).

Language: No changes from Shakespeare

How to Register: visit swshakespeare.org, fill out the form.

Appointments are 5-8 minutes

Actors should prepare: a 1-minute classical monologue.

Can I audition by video? In person preferred. See website.

Seeking: Fifteen (15) actors, including those of African, European (white), and South Asian ancestral, racial, or cultural identity. Some character genders may change; others likely to stay as described below; these may be played actors across the range of gender expression.

Why: *Gujarat after the time of partition (around 1952) was a melting pot of religious, racial, and ethnic identities, including the ancestral Gujarats, Africans, and Europeans. African populations migrated to western India for centuries, from Ethiopia and other areas of the horn of Africa. Some white Europeans stayed following the violence, including English, Dutch, French, and Portuguese. In addition to creating opportunities for South Asian artists in the valley to, casting for Romeo and Juliet is designed to reflect this rich diversity. We look forward to working with longtime friend of SW Shakes, **Deshik Vansadia**, Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre of India, and exploring the playwright's resonance in this international setting.*

Please note: most **actors will likely play additional roles in the ensemble.**

1. The **Prince** (Escalus) - *Cousin to Mercutio and Paris.* Hindu, approx 55-70
Newly appointed as the Raj ended, and will stop at nothing to contain the violence in Gujarat. (May also play the apothecary.)
2. Count **Paris** - *Nephew to the Prince,* Hindu, 24-26.
Incredibly wealthy. Kind but possessive toward Juliet. In over his head against the rage of Romeo, which will cost his life.
3. **Juliet** Capulet - Hindu, approx 14-18 - To be played by an adult actor.
An only child. Juliet's incredible skill with language bursts forth in the few days described in the play. It is part of what the young lovers see and admire in one another.
Must have strong experience with and understanding of Shakespeare.
4. Lady **Capulet** - *Juliet's Mother,* Hindu, mid 30's

Aware of her husband's proclivity for violence, and likely directed at her, she is unsurprised when this seems to emerge toward their daughter. She recognizes that the Nurse has a closer relationship with Juliet.

5. Lord **Capulet** - *Juliet's Father*, Hindu, early to mid 40's. Inherited wealth, which he has quadrupled through insight and industriousness. Capulet is focused on an arranged a marriage with a relative of the Prince. He will turn to violence quickly to protect what he believes to be right for his family and its ancient name.
6. **Nurse** - *Juliet's Nurse*, Hindu, early 40's. Closer to Juliet than Juliet's own parents. The Nurse is prone to overreaction, drama, and can be a fool, but she certainly loves Juliet.
7. **Tybalt Capulet** - *Juliet's Cousin* Hindu, 22. An unbeaten street fighter. Wants to emulate Lord Capulet. Must have extensive stage combat experience.
8. **Peter**, a servant and clown in the Capulet house. Any age.
9. **Sampson** - Hindu, 20-25, servant in the Capulet house. Not bright.
10. **Gregory** - Hindu, 20-25, servant in the Capulet house. Not bright.
11. **Friar Lawrence**, Muslim, any age. A mentor to Romeo, but the Friar's faith is accessible to all. For instance, Juliet is Hindu, but will still call turn to Fr. Lawrence, as a "Holi man." Others in both families "...are much bound to him." - Muslim holy men were called Hakim, and provided medicines and religious guidance. Hindus could also go to him for Ayurvedic medicines and that way he could be known to Capulets as well. Apart from being God's voice, because they mentored kids from a young age, they often were key influences.

Whether out of fear, arrogance, or a blend of the two, Fr. Lawrence takes up the destiny of the lovers into his own hands...with tragic consequences.
12. Lord **Montague** - *Romeo's Father*, Muslim, late 40's to mid 50's. Inherited wealth. His family traces their lineage in Gujarat several centuries.
13. Lady **Montague** - *Romeo's Mother*, Muslim, mid 40's. Knows her husband is out of shape. She wears a hijab, but not a niqāb or burka.
14. **Romeo Montague** - **Muslim**, 18-20.
To be played by an adult actor. An only child. Mopey until the moment he meets Juliet. Romeo's ability to speak is pure improvisatory genius. It's part of what endears him to all, especially his best friend Mercutio, and of course, to Juliet Capulet. His rashness directly causes three deaths, and indirectly, a fourth.
15. **Mercutio** - Is Indian, Arabic, African, or European, age 24-29. Prefer combat experience.
16. **Balthasar** - Romeo's servant. May be Indian or European, age 15-18. An adult actor.
17. **Benvolio** - *Montague's Nephew*, Muslim, 19-20.
"Good will." His nature is toward abiding the law and peaceful, he gets caught up in the violence, and disappears after the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt.
- 18-22. **Ensemble** - *Friar John, Apothecary, Police, Servants and Community Members*